

I CLAIM:

1. A patterned synthetic sponge mimicking a natural sea sponge when creating faux paint finishes, which comprises:  
a synthetic sponge formed from an open cell elastomeric material and bearing a pattern that has been created by a tearing action.
- 5 2. The sponge of claim 1, which is formed as an elongated annulus surmounting an interior annular core, wherein the edges of said sponge are beveled, for forming a paint roller head.
- 10 3. The sponge of claim 2, wherein said bevels meet in a point for forming a corner paint roller head.
4. The sponge of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from polyurethane, polyester, or polyether.
- 15 5. The sponge of claim 1, wherein said pattern was created with a rotating grinding wheel that removes sponge material with a tearing action.
6. The sponge of claim 1, wherein the pattern ranges in depth from about 0.5 inches to about 0.75 inches.
- 20 7. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 1.
- 25 8. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 2.
9. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 3.
- 30 10. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 4.
11. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 5.
- 35

12. A method for creating faux paint finishes, which comprises: applying a paint to a wall surface using the sponge of claim 6.
- 5 13. A method for stippling topping compound, which comprises: creating a pattern in topping compound with the sponge of claim 6.
14. A method for making a patterned synthetic sponge mimicking a natural sea sponge when creating faux paint finishes, which comprises:  
10 tearing a pattern into a synthetic sponge formed from an open cell elastomeric material.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said patterned sponge is formed as an elongated annulus surmounting an interior annular core and wherein the edges of said  
15 sponge are beveled for forming a paint roller head.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said bevels meet in a point for forming a corner paint roller head.
- 20 17. The method of claim 14, wherein said elastomeric material is selected from polyurethane, polyester, or polyether.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein said pattern was created with a rotating grinding wheel that removes sponge material with a tearing action.
- 25 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the pattern ranges in depth from about 0.5 inches to about 0.75 inches.